

NOTE ON *BENSONIA* AND ON AN APPARENTLY UNDESCRIBED SPECIES, *B. MIMELA*.

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THE genus, or subgenus, or section named *Bensonia* by Pfeiffer in 1855<sup>1</sup> was first defined by Godwin-Austen in 1888,<sup>2</sup> although Nevill<sup>3</sup> in 1878 brought together some of the west Himalayan species, to which, if the name is retained, it properly belongs. The original list by Pfeiffer certainly required amendment.

From the point of view of the geographical distribution of animal life, *Bensonia* is of remarkable interest, for the fauna of the western Himalayas at moderate elevations is singularly devoid of peculiar generic or subgeneric types, and the Himalayas generally, though rich in peculiar species, are poor in peculiar genera.

The animal of *Bensonia*, as examined by Colonel Godwin-Austen, resembles externally that of *Oxytes* and *Ariophanta*, except that there is a broad overhanging lobe above the mucous pore. In the anatomy, however, there is a distinct approach to *Macrochlamys*, both in the generative organs and in the radula. The shell is depressed and subdiscoidal, and the most conspicuous characters are that there is a thickened white callosity, or labiation, inside the peristome, and that, in general, similar thickened bands, marking periods of rest in the process of growth, traverse the whorls at irregular intervals from the aperture, and are conspicuous externally as white transverse streaks resembling varices.

The type of *Bensonia* is *Helix monticola*, Hutton (1838),<sup>4</sup> and the following are the species that apparently belong to it, with their localities:—

1. *Bensonia monticola*, Hutton. (= *H. labiata* and *H. angelica*, Pfr.) Western Himalayas, from Kumarin to Hazára, at elevations of about 3,000 to 7,000 feet, locally higher; not north of the Pir Panjál range in Kashmir.
2. *B. Jamuensis*, Theobald: Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, pt. II, vol. XLVII (1878), p. 142. Tavi Valley, between Chaneni and Udampur, Kashmir; also Kulu. (Perhaps, as Theobald suggests, this is a small variety of *B. monticola*, but, if so, it is a very well-marked form.)

<sup>1</sup> Mal. Blatt., 1855, Bd. II, p. 119.

<sup>2</sup> Land and Freshw. Moll. India, vol. I, p. 246.

<sup>3</sup> Hand List Moll. Ind. Mus. Calcutta, pt. I, p. 49.

<sup>4</sup> References and synonymy will be found in Godwin-Austen's "Land and Fresh-water Mollusca of India," *l.c.*

3. *B. mimela*, n.sp. Narkanda, E.N.E. of Simla.
4. *B. convexa*, Rv. (= *Helix monticola*, Pfr. : Mon. Helic., vol. i, p. 130 ; vol. iv, p. 124 ; vol. v, p. 197, nec Hutton.) Kumaun ; Nagtiba range, north of Mussooree ; Simla.
5. *B. Jacquemontii*, v. Mart. : *Nanina Jacquemontii*, Mal. Blätt., Bd. xvi, 1869, p. 75 ; Pfeiffer, Nov. Conch., tom. iv, p. 48, pl. exviii, figs. 6-8 ; *ib.*, Mon. Helic., vii, p. 220 : *B. Jacquemontii*, var. *Kurramensis*, G-A., Land Fw. Moll. Ind., vol. ii, p. 115. Murree ; Salt Range, Punjab ; Kurram Valley, Afghan Borderland.
6. *B. Wynuii*, Blanf. : *Macrochlamys Wynuii*, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, pt. n, vol. xlix, 1880, p. 197, pl. iii, fig. 5 ; Godwin-Austen, *t c.*, vol. ii, p. 118. Murree ; Cherat, near Peshawur.
7. *B. camura*, Bs. : *Helix camura*, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. iii, vol. iii, 1859, p. 269. Darjiling, Sikhim, 4,000-7,000 feet. Colonel Godwin-Austen, who has recently been able to study its anatomy, informs me that this species is a *Bensonia*.

The species hitherto undescribed is the following:—

BENSONIA MIMELA, n.sp.

Testa subobtecte perforata, conoideo-depressa, fulva, superne haud nitens, subtiliter rugato-striatula, lineis impressis crebris minute decussata, subtus nitidior, polita ; spira parum elevata ; anfr. 7,



*Bensonia mimela*, n.sp.

planulati, vix superne convexiusculi, ultimus ad peripheriam obtuse angulatus, subtus convexus ; apertura parum obliqua, lunata ; peristoma tenue, castaneo-limbatum, intus calloso-labiatum, marginibus rectis ; peristomatibus prioribus relictis in anfractu ultimo vel penultimo conspicuis. Maj. diam. 27.5, min. 24.5, alt. 15 mm.

*Hab.*—Narkanda, haud procul a Simla.

This species is distinguished from *B. monticola* by its smaller size, flatter whorls, subangulate periphery, different sculpture, and less oblique mouth. The type has been presented to the British Museum.